

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on March 6, 2007 at 8:00  
A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 793, 2/26/2007; HB 799,  
2/26/2007; HB 801, 2/27/2007  
Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON HB 793****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:15 Rep. Jack Wells (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 793, Tax credit for contributions to school tuition organization.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:36 Richard J. Bryant, Attorney, (Ret.)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:19:48 Eric Feaver, MEA/MFT

00:30:16 Bob Vogel, Montana Schools Boards Association

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a02\)](#)

00:32:12 Joe Lamson, speaking on behalf of Superintendent of Schools Linda McCulloch

00:33:30 Ginger Aldrich, representing American Civil Liberties Union of Montana

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a03\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:34:13 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:34:53 Rep. Cohenour

00:35:39 Rep. Jack Wells

00:40:37 Rep. Nooney

00:41:27 Brian Olsen

00:41:41 Rep. Erickson

00:42:26 Brian Olsen

00:44:19 Rep. Butcher

00:45:56 Rep. Wells

00:47:10 Rep. Sonju

00:49:09 Rep. Lambert

00:50:32 Rep. Hamilton

00:51:05 Joe Lambson

00:51:13 Rep. Wells

00:52:18 Rep. Cohenour

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)**

00:53:25 Brian Olsen  
00:53:45 Rep. Ross  
00:54:33 Rep. Wells  
00:55:17 Rep. Ross

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:56:48 Rep. Jack Wells

**HEARING ON HB 799****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:05:01 Rep. Ken Peterson (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 799, Impose real property transfer tax.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:15:12 Glenn Oppel, Montana Association of Realtors  
01:23:11 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association  
01:26:51 Roger Halver, representing Montana Landlords Association  
01:28:11 Jon Bennion, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce  
01:29:07 Errol Rice, representing Montana Stock Growers Association  
01:31:45 Pat Torgerson, speaking for Wife Women Involved in Farm Economics  
01:33:06 Megan Brower, representing Montana Farm Bureau

**Informational Testimony:**

01:34:12 Debbie Jurcich, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:34:31 Rep. Lambert  
01:35:35 Rep. Peterson  
01:37:08 Rep. Ross  
01:39:48 Rep. Erickson  
01:40:29 Debbie Jurcich  
01:42:24 Rep. Erickson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:43:05 Rep. Ken Peterson

01:49:32 Break  
02:05:31 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 801**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:05:46 Rep. Gary MacLaren (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 801, Health insurance payments as income tax credit for certain individuals.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:09:00 Frank Cote, representing American Health Insurance Plans, also speaking for Tonya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana  
02:10:14 Mike Foster, representing Sisters of Charities Hospitals  
02:11:53 Jon Bennion, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce  
02:13:28 Don Allen, representing Association of Insurance Financial Advisors

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

02:15:26 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue  
02:15:41 Erin McGowen-Fincham, State Auditor's Office

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:17:44 Rep. Erickson  
02:21:03 Rep. Nooney  
02:21:55 Rep. Ross  
02:23:08 Rep. MacLaren  
02:23:35 Rep. Cohenour  
02:24:21 Rep. Grinde

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:25:26 Rep. Gary MacLaren

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:30 A.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah47aad.pdf](#))**